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Padraic Colum

THE VULTURES

Foul-feathered and scald-necked,
They sit in evil state;
Raw marks upon their breasts
As on men's wearing chains.

Impure, though they may plunge
Into the morning's springs;
And spirit-dulled, though they
Command the heights of heaven.

Angels of foulness ye,
So fierce against the dead!—
Sloth on your muffled wings,
And speed within your eyes!

THE WANDERERS

A mighty star has drawn a-nigh, and now
Is vibrant in the air;
The trembling, half-divested trees of his
Bright presence are aware.

And Night has told it to the hills, and told
The partridge in the nest;
And left it on the long white roads that she
Gives light instead of rest.

I watch it in the stream, the stranger-star,
Pulsing from marge to main: